



RECKLESS REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS COULD UNDERMINE NATIONAL DEFENSE

Republicans have created record deficits three years in a row and increased the national debt by \$3 trillion over the last five years for a total of \$8 trillion. Now, in an irresponsible and ineffective attempt to appear fiscally responsible, **Republicans propose a 2% across-the-board cut to every federal program including defense and homeland security.** Democrats believe that blindly slicing our national security investments by 2% is neither smart nor effective. Democrats believe we can be fiscally responsible without putting America's national security at risk.

Consequences of Republicans' 2% Across-the-Board Cuts to National Security

► CUTS TO THE DEFENSE BUDGET

A 2% cut in the House-passed FY06 defense appropriations bill would total more than \$7.2 billion. This cut roughly equals the President's entire budget request for the following programs:

- Navy Shipbuilding (\$8.7B)
- Missile Defense Systems (\$7.7B)

A 2% cut in the House-passed FY06 defense appropriations bill would be more than the funds provided for all of the following programs:

- 38 F18 E/F aircraft (\$2.8B)
- Procurement of Chem/Bio defenses for the troops (\$1.7B)
- 1 Arleigh Burke Destroyer (\$1.4 B)
- 45 Blackhawk helicopters (\$660 M)
- The Nunn-Lugar program (\$416 M - DoD account)
- Night vision devices for the Army (\$173 M)
- Shadow Tactical UAVs (\$26 M)
- Demining programs (\$14 M)

Total = \$7.189 billion

► CUTS TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY BUDGET

A 2% cut in the enacted FY06 homeland security budget would total nearly \$640 million. This cut is nearly as much or more than the funding provided for these important programs:

- \$686 million for Air Marshals
- \$655 million for Fire Grants and the SAFER Program
- \$400 million for Air and Marine Interdiction Operations for the Customs and Border Protection Directorate
- \$340 million for the US VISIT Program
- \$443 million for Explosives Detection Technology for TSA
- \$55 million for Air Cargo Inspection
- \$651 million for Secret Service Protection Activities
- \$765 million for Grants to High-Threat, High-Density Urban Areas
- \$204 million for Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Recovery
- \$538 million for Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, Radiological and Explosives Countermeasures

► CUTS TO THE VETERANS' HEALTH CARE BUDGET

A 2% cut to the House-passed discretionary level for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) would total more than \$600 million. This cut would translate into:

- Nearly 100,000 fewer veterans receiving health care this year (Based on VA projected health care costs of \$6,475/veteran)
- “[A] rationing of care, hiring freezes of medical personnel, delaying repairs on facilities, growing backlogs of medical equipment, and many other fiscal-based constraints.” (The American Legion)